

413047) EXETER

EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1948.

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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. 1948.

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1948 detailed in Form and Sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health as contained in Memorandum 302/S.A., and relevant circulars.

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death in January 1948, of Dr. Boesley, your Medical Officer to the Exeter Port Health Authority. Consequent upon his decease, Dr. D.H.L. Moore, the Authorities Deputy Medical Officer carried on the duties as Port Health Medical Officer until the appointment of Dr. L.G. Anderson as from the 1st. August, 1948.

S T A F F .

Medical Officer of Health.

L.G. ANDERSON.
M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool)

Deputy Medical Officer.

D.H.L. MOORE.
B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.

Port Health Inspectors.

F.G. DAVIES
M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.S.A.
(Meat and other Foods Certificate.)

MR. F. KNIGHT.

MR. W.C. TROUT.

(Mr. F.G. Davies is also the Senior Sanitary
Inspector to the Exeter City Council.)

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A (1)

		Number	Tonnage.	Number inspected.	
				By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.
Foreign	Steamers	2	412	-	2
	Motor +	27	3534	2	27
	Sailing	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign		29	3946	2	29
Coastwise	Steamers	5	505	-	5
	Motor+	241	31,119	12	236
	Sailing	2	4	-	-
	Fishing	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise		248	31,628	12	241
Total Foreign and Coastwise.		277	35,574	14	270

Note + Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
Nil.	Nil.	Nil	Nil.

TABLE A (2)

Refers to vessels passing through the canal to Exeter Basin and included in Table A, above.

		Number	Tonnage.
Foreign	Steamers	-	-
	Motor+	9	911
	Sailing	-	-
	Fishing	-	-
Total Foreign		9	911
Coastwise.	Steamers	-	-
	Motor+	135	13,520
	Sailing	-	-
	Fishing	-	-
Total Coastwise		135	13,520
Total Foreign and Coastwise.		144	14431

2. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

(a) Passenger traffic during the year.

Apart from the day cruises by M.V. Dumbo and Bambo and the regular sailings of the Exmouth-Starcross passenger ferry there was no passenger traffic during the year.

(b) Cargo traffic.

(1) Principal imports:-

Coal	131 vessels.
Petrol	82 "
Cider apples)	16 "
and cider)	
Fertilisers	5 "
Sugar	4 "
Bog ore	3 "
Potatoes	3 "
Slate	1 "

Foreign ports from which the vessels arrived

Oslen -	cider and cider apples
Deauville-	"
St. Vaast	"
Treport-	"
Honfluer	"
Rotterdam-	Timber and bog ore
Delfzijl-	Bog ore.
Karlstad-	Timber.
St. Malo--	Slate

(2) Principal Exports- There were no exports.

3. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of supply for (a) the Port and (b) Shipping.

(1) Exmouth Harbour - Exmouth Urban District Main supply.
Supply adequate, satisfactory quality.

(2) Exeter basin - Exeter City Council - supply adequate
and quality satisfactory.

(3) Topsham - main supply-adequate satisfactory quality

(2) Hydrants and Hosepipes.

There are 5 hydrants and hosepipes for use in the above ports. They are flushed out prior to use and regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector or in the case of Exeter Basin by the canal superintendent.

(3) Water boats. There are no water boats.

4. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS. 1933 and 1945.

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

Declaration of Health required only in the case of Foreign going vessels from foreign ports are completed by the Master of the Vessel and handed to the Customs Officer or Port Sanitary Inspector, who should occasionally require it, communicate immediately with the Medical Officer of Health.

(2) Boarding of Vessels on arrival.

All foreign and coastwise vessels are on arrival boarded and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector either at Exmouth Docks or Exeter Basin and by the Medical Officer of Health if required. A few vessels are inspected by the Medical Officer as a routine.

(3) Notification to the authority of inland vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Customs Officer etc.)

Arrangements are being made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless Messages if required. None was received during 1948.

(4) Mooring Stations designated under Article 10.

- {a) Within the Docks - ships are moored to the quay.
- {b) Outside the Docks - all incoming ships are moored to one of the three buoys in the Bight before being boarded by the Customs Officer.

(5) Particulars of standing exemptions from the provisions of Article. 14.

There are no standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.

(6) Experience of working Article 16.

There has been no experience of this during 1948.

(7) What, if any, arrangements have been made for:-

- (a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.

There are no premises specially designated for medical examination.

(b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.

This authority is not competent to undertake the disinfection of ships, which in the occasion arises will be referred to Plymouth for this purpose.

The cleansing of persons and the disinfection of clothing can be undertaken at the Exeter Isolation Hospital.

(c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for which such accommodation is required for purposes of the regulation.

No special premises have been designated for the temporary accommodation of persons, but should this become necessary it would be provided at one of the hospitals in the area.

(d) Hospital accommodation for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.

Cases of smallpox will be admitted to Lee Mill Isolation Hospital, Plymouth and in the event of accommodation being required therein the facts will be communicated to the Medical Superintendent of the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth (Telephone Plymouth 4311 or 61437.)

Other infectious diseases will be dealt with at the Exeter Isolation Hospital, Whipton.

(e) Ambulance Transport.

An efficient and adequate ambulance service is available day and night for infectious and non-infectious cases.

(f) Supervision of Contacts.

This is undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health, his Deputy, or by the Sanitary Inspector according to the requirements of the particular case.

(8.) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague.

The required examination will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service, No: 7 Dix's Field, Exeter.

(9) Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examination.

Examinations under this heading are made either at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter or the Public Health Services Laboratory, Exeter.

(10). Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among sailors under international arrangements.

Masters of vessels are informed that seamen requiring such treatment should attend at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on the following days and times.

Mondays 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Fridays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

(11). Arrangements for the interment of the dead.

There are adequately equipped mortuaries at Exmouth and Exeter. The nearest crematorium is at Plymouth. One dock-worker was killed on the 25th June, 1948 by dislocation of the neck accidentally sustained due to contact with a broken derrick whilst assisting unloading cargo.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious sickness landed from vessels.

Nil.

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No cases of plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox or typhus fever occurred on any vessel and no plague infested rats were discovered.

5. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague

(a) In ships in the port- Enquiries are made from masters of all vessels using the port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats.

(b) On quays, wharfs, warehouses, etc. in the vicinity of the port. - Regular inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspector and any unusual signs are notified to the Medical Officer.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.

Masters are questioned regarding evidence of rats on board. Other than this action no further precautions are at present taken. The fitting of rat guards and fenders and other precautions are at present under consideration.

(3) Method of deratisation of ships.

(a) Ships - any ship requiring deratisation is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays - These premises are inspected regularly by the Rodent Operatives under the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and shore- Systematic inspections are made with special reference to rat excreta, rat runs, damage to foodstuffs etc.

6. HYGIENE OF CREWS' QUARTERS.

TABLE J.

Classification of nuisances.				
Nationality of Vessels.	Number Inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	228	Nil.	Nil.	1 +
Other Nations	49	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

+ This case refers to minor infestation of a vessel with bed bugs. The master undertook fumigation of the vessel himself and subsequently reported the vessel to be clear.

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulation, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulation 1926, the Public Health (Preservatives etc, in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940.

No action under these regulations was required.

(2) Shellfish - Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Mussel beds are established in the estuary opposite to Lympstone. In view of the outfalls of crude untreated sewage at Topsham, Stercross and Lympstone such shellfish are liable to pollution. Accordingly the Exeter Shellfish Regulations of 1919 were made. Briefly these regulations prohibit the collection of shellfish from two areas, one in the vicinity of the Lympstone sewer outlets and the other in the vicinity of Stercross. Furthermore the regulations made it obligatory for all persons collecting shellfish (excluding periwinkles) for sale for human consumption to subject such shellfish to either (1) sterilisation by steaming under pressure for at least 6 minutes in a suitable apparatus or (2) by an approved method of cleansing e.g. by means of water sterilised by chlorine.

Sterilisation by steaming is employed at the Exe Shellfish Company, Exmouth.

The cleansing tanks formerly used by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have been taken over by a Mr. Clark who has thoroughly cleaned them out and under the supervision and direction of Mr. H.P. Sherwood (Senior Naturalist on the Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) has carried out preliminary trials. The results of these trials have been satisfactory and approval of the Ministry of Health is now awaited before Mr. Clark can proceed to offer his shell-fish for sale for human consumption.

(3) Other than the trial samples of mussels from the mussel cleansing tanks at Lympstone owned by Mr. Clark and referred to above, there were no samples of food sent for bacteriological and/or chemical analysis during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. E. Anderson

Port Medical Officer.

January 15th 1949.

